Libby Area Community Advisory Group

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Kerry Beasley St. John's Lutheran Hospital

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George Bauer City of Libby

Dr. Brad Black Lincoln County Health Officer CARD

Eileen Carney State Rep., Dist. 82

Bob Dedrick Asb estos V ictim

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Rick Palagi St. John's Lutheran Hospital

Norita Skramstad

Asbestos Victim

Garv Spencer

Glacier Bank
Mike Switzer

Asbestos Victim

Leroy Thom

Former W .R. Grace employee Sandy Wagner

LCCHC

Don Wilkins

Lumber & Sawmill Workers

#2581
Wilbur Wilson
Lincoln County Council on Aging

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February 28, 2002

Governor Judy Martz Montana State Capitol Helena, MT 59620-0801

Dear Governor Martz:

The Libby Area Community Advisory Group (CAG) is writing to you to request a meeting to discuss funding for the future health care needs of those suffering from asbestos-related disease in our community.

As you may know, members of the Libby CAG represent a broad cross section of our community. We are committed to insuring that everything possible is done to clean up Libby, protect the health of residents, and take care of those who suffer from, or are at risk of suffering from, negative health consequences of asbestos exposure.

Before your "state of the state" address last month, you and your staff person, Todd O'Hair, met with Los Skramstad, whose wife, Norita, is a CAG member. You and Mr. O'Hair assured Mr, Skramstad that you would help resolve asbestos issues here in Libby. During your speech, you said you'd "work with the community and appropriate state and federal agencies to ensure that the short and long-term health care needs of the citizens of Libby are fully met." Because of the scope of the problem we face here, we were encouraged by your words.

At the request of the county health board, our county's consultant on health care funding, Tracy Velazquez, contacted Mr. O'Hare to schedule a meeting to discuss your plans for funding asbestos-related cars. Unfortunately, after three phone calls, a date for this meeting still has not been set. We are anxious to move this issue forward, and know that without your leadership and your support, creating a system of health care funding will be difficult at best.

We are now contacting you directly to request a meeting between you, your staff, Ms. Velazquez, and Libby community members, to discuss funding for asbestos-related health cars. We hope that you can make room in your March schedule for such a meeting; if you can, please have your scheduler call Ms. Velazquez directly at 539-9715.

The people of Libby cannot, and should not, bear the health care costs of asbestos exposure at work, at school and in the community, Thank you for margins a commitment to the people of Libby to ensure that we are not left the victims of W. R. Grace's irresponsible corporate behavior.